

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
30 September 2004 (30.09.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/083834 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: G01N 21/88,  
A24C 5/34

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(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/GB2004/001181

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,  
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,  
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,  
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,  
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,  
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,  
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,  
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,  
ZW.

(22) International Filing Date: 19 March 2004 (19.03.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
0306468.0 20 March 2003 (20.03.2003) GB

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),  
Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), Euro-  
pean (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR,  
GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK,  
TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW,  
ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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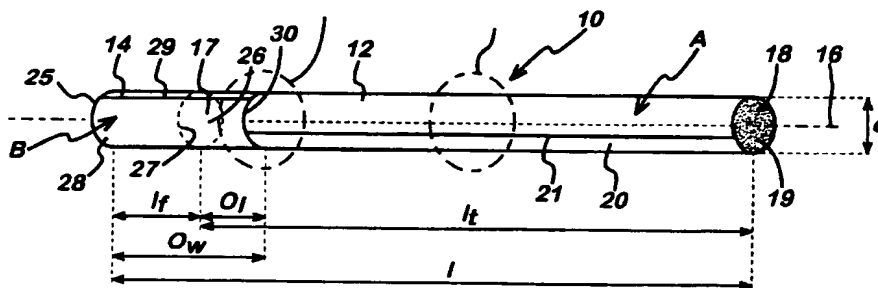
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**Published:**

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the  
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of  
amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING ONE OR MORE PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF A ROLLED  
SMOKING ARTICLE OR FILTER ROD



(57) Abstract: A method of determining one or more physical properties of a rolled smoking article (10) or filter rod (14) is dis-  
closed, said method comprising disposing a rolled smoking article or filter rod (14) within a field of view, illuminating said field  
of view, imaging said rolled smoking article or filter rod within said field of view to form an image, and analysing said image to  
determine one or more physical properties of said rolled smoking article or filter rod. Preferably said image is a digital image, which  
may be electronically processed to determine said one or more physical properties. Said one or more physical properties may include  
the length (e) of the rolled smoking article or filter rod, or its mean diameter (d), ovality, circumference, roundness or shape. The  
invention also provides apparatus for performing such method comprising imaging means defining the field of view, said imaging  
means being adapted for imaging a rolled smoking article or filter rod in said field of view, means for positioning a smoking article  
or filter rod in said field of view, illuminating means for illuminating said field of view, and processing means for processing said  
image to determine one or more physical properties of a smoking article or filter rod in said field of view.

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